

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on April 7, 2008 which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 remain in this application, where claim 4 is added and claim 1 is independent.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,517,995 (Jacobson). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are patentable over Jacobson for at least the following reasons.

Jacobson is directed to fabrication of finely featured devices by liquid embossing where patterns are formed by lowering a stamp onto a layer. As shown in FIG 8f, material may be transferred between a layer 825 and a lower contact surface of projecting features 832 of the stamp or substrate 830.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, amongst other patentable elements recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

providing an elastomeric stamp having a bulk surface and at least one feature protruding from the bulk surface the protruding feature having a contact surface and an edge extending from the contact surface to the bulk surface the protruding feature and the bulk surface carrying a barrier layer; ...

providing the surface of the second substrate with an ink pattern by transferring the ink from the edge of the protruding feature to the surface of the second substrate.

Transferring the ink from the edge is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Jacobson. Rather, any transfer in Jacobson is between a layer 825 and lower contact surfaces (of the projecting features 832) of the stamp or substrate 830. Further, column 11, lines 7-15 merely disclose directly transferring material from projecting features of the elastomeric stamp onto the substrate, and is completely silent about any transferring ink from an edge extending from any contact surface.

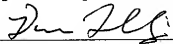
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 should also be allowed at least based on their

dependence from independent claim 1 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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